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will disappear and damages may occur which can have been prevented by prompt action on the part of local officers. I wish to observe that the Government also have a certain amount of responsibility to see that action is initiated promptly especially in the case of a calamity of such a widespread nature."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—"May I know, Sir, what steps have been taken to repair damages caused to railway lines by the floods ?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—"With regard to the breaches on the railway lines, we have, of course, received reports that all of them have been repaired and therefore I think it is not necessary for my hon. friend to pursue that matter further."

The hon. Mr. K. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"Sir, I had a report on the breaches in the Periyar channel, and, by the kindness of the Kallar officer who had sent us nearly 4,000 Kallars, the breaches have all been completely repaired, or they have all been very nearly completely repaired."

The Raja of Ramnad :—"Am I to understand that since the railway line has been restored, there is nothing more to be done in that matter? May I bring to the notice of the hon. the Home Member and of this House that all these calamities were solely due to the inadequate openings in the railway line for the passage of drainage water ? If sufficient culverts and bridges had been constructed on the railway lines, all these damages to house and property could have been avoided and the floods would have easily drained. It is owing to the inadequacy of culverts and bridges that the water spread into the villages."

Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—"May I request the hon. the Home Member to call for information regarding the number of tanks over which the railway line from Madura to Rameswaram passes, the number of bridges which are constructed on the line abutting the big tanks which exist to the northern side of the line ?"

The hon. Mr. A. R. Knapp :—"On the question of the number of bridges between Madura and Rameswaram, I am afraid I have not got information at present. After what has been stated on the subject, I can only undertake to bring these comments to the notice of the railway authorities."

The Raja of Ramnad :—"That will really satisfy us, because we only want an investigation on the adequacy or otherwise of the railway culverts and bridges."

III

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS DURING THE JANUARY MEETING.

The hon. Sir Charles Todhunter :—"Mr. President, in accordance with the undertaking given on the 19th instant, I submit to the Council the following statement of Government business which is likely to be taken up during the January meeting. It is expected that the report of the Select Committee on the Madras University Bill will be taken into consideration. It is not yet known whether the similar report on the Hindu Religious Endowments Bill will be ready for that meeting or will have to wait till the next. It is expected that the Irrigation Bill will be introduced. In addition to this there will be three minor Bills : a Bill to amend the District Municipalities Act, a Bill to amend the Local Boards Act and a Bill to

make certain small amendments in the Stamp Act. These are the legislative measures which the Government have in contemplation, and they have not, at present, before them any other Government business which is likely to be ready in January with the exception of one or two supplementary demands."

IV

COMMITTEE TO SUGGEST WAYS TO EXPEDITE THE DISPOSAL OF NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" With reference to the complaint made the day before yesterday about the congestion of non-official business by the hon. the Deputy President and others, and my remarks on the subject, and with reference also to the motion tabled by the hon. Member Mr. P. T. Rajan, I have decided to appoint a committee of the House to consider the whole question and report how far the congestion can be avoided and what changes, if any, can, in their opinion, be made to ensure that object.

" I request the following hon. Members to be so good as to serve on the Committee :—

1. Diwan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai (Deputy President).
2. Mr. R. Venkataratnam Nayudu.
3. Sir T. Desika Achariyar.
4. The Rev. W. Meston.
5. Mr. M. Ratnaswami.
6. The hon. the Raja of Panagal.
7. Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar.
8. Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi.
9. ,, O. Tanikachala Chettiyar.
10. ,, P. T. Rajan.
11. ,, M. Ramachandra Rao Pantulu.
12. ,, M. Krishnan Nayar.
13. ,, Muhammad Usman.
14. ,, T. Arumainatha Pillai.

" Should the Committee consider any amendment to the Standing Orders necessary to give effect to their recommendations, they are requested to be so good as to state what those amendments are. The Deputy President will preside over the deliberations of the Committee and the Secretary to the Council will be the Secretary to the Committee.

" In view of the appointment of the Committee, I trust that the hon. Member Mr. P. T. Rajan will not consider it necessary to make his motion."

The following motion was withdrawn :—

Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—

That this Council resolves to request the hon. the President to appoint a committee of the House to consider and report on suitable methods for the quick disposal of non-official business, chiefly resolutions.

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I ask the hon. the Leader of the House whether it will not be possible to allot some time for the discussion of the various resolutions which have been tabled. At the rate at which we are progressing, I am afraid that not a single resolution will be discussed till the 31st March 1923, when the Council will be prorogued. The only influence that this mode of transacting business has on the hon. Members is that when once they send notice of a resolution, they feel that nothing more is left for them to be done because the resolution is not at all likely to be discussed in the Council. "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As the hon. Member Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi is on the Committee, I have no doubt that he will make

11-30 a.m. his influence felt. If he is able to convince the members of the Committee that he is in the right, the Committee may embody his views in its report."